

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3097

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJECT: U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICA

REF: STATE 083680

1. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, CHILE DID NOT OF COURSE RENOUNCE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. U.S. LEGISLATIVE ACTION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESUME IT. WERE IT NOT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, A CASE COULD BE MADE FOR RESUMING MILITARY TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE FOR CHILE AT A LEVEL EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF PERU -- AS WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST -- TO PROVIDE SOME ELEMENT OF DETERRENCE BY DIMINISHING THE ARMS IMBALANCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. SO FAR IN 1977 CHILE'S RECORD WITH RESPECT TO GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS SHOWS MARKED IMPROVEMENT. IF THE GROUND GAINED SHOULD BE HELD AND EXTENDED, THE TIME MIGHT EVENTUALLY COME WHEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE SOME MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING RESTRICTIONS. AS INDICATED REFTEL, THESE ARE MORE FAR-REACHING THAN THOSE APPLIED TO ANY OF THE COUNTRIES NAMED.

3. THE GOC BOTH NEEDS AND WANTS U.S. MILITARY MATERIEL AND
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TRAINING. BUT IT WILL NOT EXPOSE ITSELF TO A REBUFF BY ANY VISIBLE MOVE TO SEEK IT, UNTIL IT IS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THERE WOULD BE A POSITIVE RESPONSE.

4. THE CHILEANS WOULD PREFER THE RESTORATION OF THE FULL TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP IN THIS AREA, INCLUDING IMET, FMS CREDIT AND SALES, AND ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL SALES.

IF A RESUMPTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WERE TO BE PHASED IN GRADUALLY, WE BELIEVE THE GOC WOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF RESUMPTION MOSE APPROPRIATE:

(A) TRAINING - BY IMET OR FMS CASH SALE, BOTH IN CANAL ZONE AND U.S. SCHOOLS:

- AIR FORCE: PILOT TRAINING, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, GROUND RADAR OPERATIONS, SUPPORT SPECIALTIES.
- ARMY: COMBAT ARMS ORIENTATION ANDV MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICER CAREER COURSES.
- . NAVY: PILOT TRAINING, POST-GRADUATE TRAINING, AND OFFICER/ SNCO ADVANCED TECHNICAL COURSES.

(B) MATERIEL -- BY FMS CREDIT OR CASH SALE, OR COMMERCIAL SLAES. IN GENERAL, INITIAL PRIORITIES WOULD COVER MATERIEL TO IMPROVE CHILE'S DEFENSIVE CAPACITY IN THE NORTH:

- ARMY: ANTI-TANK WEAPONS (TOW, LAW, 106RR), ARTILLERY, AMMUNITION, SPARE PARTS.
 - AIR FORCE: SPARES/FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT FOR F-5/A-37 CIRCRAFT (SPECIFICALLY F-5 ENGINES); SPARES FOR OTHER AIR ASSETS; THREE C-130 AIRCRAFT, AND AMMUNITION AND AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS/RADAR FOR THE NORTH.
 - NAVY: SPARES FOR US-ORIGIN VESSELS, AMMUNITION, IMPROVEMENT OF COAST GUARD-TYPE SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES (AIR/SURFACE PATROL).
- POPPER

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